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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PRESS RELEASE

Bradford Cathedral Harvest events celebrate the Season of Creation



Canon Mandy Coutts, with trowel in hand, prepares to plant some of the many bulbs donated by the congregation.

Bradford Cathedral will be marking the Season of Creation with a Harvest service that will help

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support the homeless and hungry of Bradford, and are appealing to the people of Bradford to help donate any food they can to help those in need.

Harvest: A time of need

Canon Mandy Coutts:

“Harvest is the one time of the year where we stop, and pause, to recognise how amazing creation is and rejoice in the abundant good food that we have. We are able to give with thankful hearts, in the knowledge that this food is going to be shared by those who have less opportunities to access such things.

“Bradford has so many places that do food provision for those in need, and that is because there is such a demand, some of whom we see every day in the cathedral. This food will be going to places like Abigail Housing, who support asylum seekers; the Bradford Central Foodbank and Inn Churches, so we know it’s going to places of great need.”

Helping those in need

Bradford Cathedral is looking for people in Bradford to help **donate tinned foods and fresh produce** to help those in need.

“We’re really delighted that we are supporting groups like Inn Churches who are able to take the fresh food and turn out some wonderful meals. **Whether it’s fresh, tinned, packaged or dried, everything is welcomed, and everything will be used.**”

Family fun with Messy Cathedral Harvest

A recent poll commissioned by the Church of England revealed that **two-thirds of people say there is still value in children taking part in Christian Harvest Festivals**. Those polled were positive on the benefits attending a Harvest service brings, such as offering generosity to people in need and teaching children where food comes from.

Bradford Cathedral will be marking the season with a **Harvest Service on Sunday 29th September at 10:15am**, followed by a **Messy Cathedral Harvest event from 12:30pm** through to 2pm.

There will also be a very special **Harvest loaf, kindly donated by Melvyn Davis bakery in Shipley.**

“The Sunday for us will be very exciting. Messy Harvest is for families and those who want to come along. There will be a shared meal, we’ll be exploring the themes of Harvest, and this year we’ll be **planting spring bulbs** at the West End of the cathedral so that all the bees in the spring will have food to eat.”

There will also be bread making, songs and crafts at the Messy Cathedral Harvest event.

A Spectacular Blaze of Colour

Bradford Cathedral is also appealing for donations of spring-flowering bulbs such as crocuses and snowdrops to help bring a “spectacular blaze of colour” to its gardens at the West End. As well as tying in with the themes of Harvest, it also contributes to their ‘EcoCathedral’ status.

“Finally the world is waking up to realise that this world is precious and amazing, and that we’re not making a good job of looking after it. Here at the cathedral, in everything we do, from how we use our resources, to planting trees, to creating new woodlands, and how we move around the building, we make sure we’re always thinking about the environment and creation, and being good stewards.

“This year is **our centenary year** so we’re remembering that God has actually given us so much in return, and there’s much we can give back to the world and to the city.”

Future environmental events include an EcoExtravaganza on Saturday 19th October and a tree planting day on Saturday 23rd November.

Bradford Cathedral will also be **filled with flowers** during the Harvest season as the flower arranging team decorate the main nave and side chapels with a selection of beautiful and impressive displays, which visitors are welcome to discover.

Donations of food and spring-flowering bulbs can be made at the Bradford Cathedral office during the usual opening hours. Places can be reserved at all the events mentioned in the piece by visiting bradfordcathedral.eventbrite.com, by visiting the cathedral office or calling 01274 77 77 20 between 8:30am and 4:30pm.

You can see more details about the Church of England poll at <https://www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/news/parents-still-value-Harvest-festival-their-children-poll>

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Notes for Editors

About Bradford Cathedral

Bradford Cathedral has been a place of worship in Bradford since the first millennium. It is the oldest building in the city and, alongside being a place of worship, hosts events, arts projects and much more. Bradford Cathedral celebrates its centenary in 2019.

For further information please contact:

Philip Lickley

Communications, Marketing and Events Officer

t: 01274 777720

e: commsandevents@bradfordcathedral.org

About the Season of Creation

From September 1 to October 4, Christians around the world celebrate the Season of Creation, including through prayer, hands-on projects, or advocacy.